

REMARKS**Response to Claim Objections**

Claim 65 was objected to by the Examiner because of the following informalities:
Line 11 of claim 65 states, "element which disposed". The Examiner suggests inserting --is-- between "which" and "disposed". The word --is-- has been inserted as suggested by the Examiner.

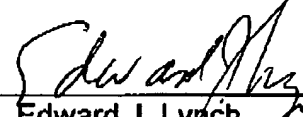
Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 51, 61-63, 69, 70 and 74 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6, 117, 153 (Lary et al.). Applicants have amended claims 51, 61, 69 and 70 to clarify the location of the fixation element and the cutting or separation member on the shaft of the device. The claims are directed to fixation of a tissue sample separated by the cutting element. The device described by Lary et al. has a fixation element but it is not designed to fix the mass of tissue severed by the cutting element. Moreover, the fixation element is not within the length of the longitudinally disposed or aligned cutting element as called for. Therefore, the reference fails to anticipate these claims.

Conclusion:

Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are directed to patentable subject matter. Reconsideration and an early allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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